Matters arising 337



Figure 1

Case 1 A 34 year old cohabiting heavy goods vehicle driver presented with a one year history of an itchy growth on his penis which the patient initially mistook for a wart. (He had a past history of penile warts at the age of 16 years). The growth enlarged progressively and ultimately split the foreskin causing pain. On examination there was an indurated, ulcerated, mass on the glans penis and prepuce (fig. 1).

Case 2 A 41 year old married company director gave a 2 month history of a rash on his penis which responded neither to clotrimazole cream nor hydrocortisone 1% cream. He was otherwise fit and healthy. On examination there was a marked balanoposthitis, and on the glans penis, there were areas of erythema, telangiectasia and depigmentation suggestive of lichen sclerosus. In addition, there was an indurated ulcer adjacent to the frenulum.

Case 3 A 41 year old married heavy goods vehicle driver was seen complaining of penile discomfort and blood stained discharge from under this foreskin over the previous 6 weeks. The patient volunteered that his foreskin had always been tight but that

Figure 2

recently he had been unable to retract it at all. On examination there was a phimosis, with evidence of lichen sclerosus, and an indurated warty lesion on the area of visible glans.

Case 4 A 48 year old unemployed married man had had difficulty in retracting his foreskin over the previous year. This had been associated with an offensive, occasionally blood stained discharge and dysuria. His general health had been good and there had been no weight loss. On examination there was a phimosis with an underlying ulcerated mass (fig 2). The glans penis and penile shaft were indurated and tender.

All the patients were referred to a consultant urologist and biopsy confirmed the diagnosis of squamous cell carcinoma of the penis in each case. All underwent surgery, with one lesion requiring total penectomy and radiotherapy.

It is interesting to speculate whether the incidence of penile malignancies in younger men is beginning to increase in parallel with the increase in vulval intraepithelial neoplasia in women, perhaps related to the increasing prevalence of HPV infection.

MAUREEN REYNOLDS ERIC MONTEIRO JANET WILSON Department of Genito-urinary Medicine Sunnybank Wing General Infirmary at Leeds Great George Street Leeds LS1 3EX, UK

1 Yoganathan K, Patel RN, Maitland N, McManus TJ, Calman FMB, Pozniak A. Carcinoma of the penis in a HIV positive patient. Genitourin Med 1995;71:41.

2 Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

Registratons, Series MBI, no. 22, HMSO, London.

Accepted for publication 27 April 1995.

NOTICE

State of the Art Issues in Genitourinary Medicine: a day on the interface between obstetrics, gynaecology and genitourinary medicine.

30 November, 1995; 9.15 am-5.30 pm at (Hotel), the Chelsea Knightsbridge, London.

Contact: Carol Whitwill, AIDS Course Administrator, St Stephen's Centre, 369 Fulham Road, London SW10 9TH. Tel: 0181-746 8234.

BOOK REVIEWS

All titles reviewed here are available from the BMJ Bookshop, PO Box 295, London WC1H 9TE. Prices include postage in the UK and for members of the British Forces Overseas, but overseas customers should add 15% to the value of the order for postage and packing. Payment can be made by cheque in sterling drawn on a UK bank, or by credit card (Mastercard, Visa, or American Express) stating card number, expiry data, and full name.

An Atlas of Differential Diagnosis in HIV Disease. (The Encyclopedia of Visual Medicine Series). By M C I Lipman, T A Gluck, M A Johnson. Parthenon Publishing Group. 1995. (Pp £48) Carnforth, Lancs. ISBN 1-85070-474-0

This is really more than an atlas alone—its text gives a thorough and current account of various aspects of HIV, which, when combined with excellent illustration makes it a very informative read. It sets out to provide background to aid clinicians who have less experience of HIV infection and its manifestations, and as such fulfils its role well.

The introduction gives an up to date account of HIV infection and associated issues starting with acquisition and transmission of the virus and detailing cumulative numbers of HIV infected people on a worldwide scale. It stresses the importance of preventive measures in controlling worldwide spread of infection, and covers both the techniques and issues relating to HIV antibody testing. Much of the information is also represented graphically and diagramatically, complementing the very readable text. This background information is followed by a description of presentation and follow up of an HIV infected patient-covering the natural history, monitoring, classification of disease and some symptom complexes.

Chapters cover: skin, respiratory, gastrointestinal, neurological, ocular, malignant disease, and are followed by a limited bibliography subdivided by the same headings. The skin diseases are beautifully illustrated and common conditions covered in detail as well as some of the rarer manifestations (e.g. mycobacterial skin ulceration and bacillary angiomatosis) although candidal skin infection was missing. Much of the respiratory chapter is dedicated to the various manifestations of pneumocystis pneumonia, outlining its importance changing presentation and incidence since the advent of primary prophylaxis. There are many X-ray and MRI illustrations together with corresponding microbiological appearances. This chapter also touches on cardiological involvement in HIV. Gastrointestinal manifestations also cover oral disease, wasting syndrome and highlights the likelihood of coexistent viral hepatitis. Both the neurological and ocular chapters are again well illustrated and case histories are given with the clinical pictures. Malignant disease focuses mainly on Kaposi's sarcoma with lymphoma and cervical intraepithelial neoplasia also pictured.

338 Book reviews

Overall this is a beautifully produced book, with informative and readable descriptions of all the common HIV manifestations, and illustrated with over 200 good quality diagrams and clinical pictures. I am sure that this will be appreciated by those wishing to learn more about HIV, and valued for its illustrations by those with more experience in the field.

SARAH EDWARDS

HIV Infection in Women. Edited by H Minkoff, J DeHovitz, A Duerr. New York: Raven Press, 1995. (pp 328, US \$123.50). ISBN 0-7817-0236-4.

There are now several multi author texts about HIV and women and all must find a compromise between being a complete text-book on HIV, with some special reference to women, or concentrating solely on women-specific issues and thereby appearing to suggest that women differ from men only in their possession of a uterus. This latest American version achieves a useful balance, apart perhaps from a lengthy and detailed chapter on basic virology and pathophysiology for which, I suspect, few readers would consult this book.

The book is divided into two parts. The first, Basic Considerations includes a concise and depressing account of the epidemiology of HIV infection in women. The section on vaccines is rather long considering these are not yet of any clinical relevance and have few gender specific implications. There are excellent overviews of the natural history of HIV infection and heterosexual transmission. The two chapters on psychology and psychosocial issues, make stimulating reading despite an acknowledged paucity of data in this area and some overlap.

The second part is headed Clinical Considerations and has well-written chapters on medical management, contraception, pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease interactions, injecting drug use and counselling services. The chapter on HPV provides a comprehensive but unwieldy list of studies of the interactions between HIV, HPV and CIN. The last chapter looks at the ethics, politics and science of new-born screening for HIV. Much of this is peculiar to the United States and seems less relevant

to Europe where the debate is more focused on antenatal screening.

Overall, there is much to recommend in this book but a few minor quibbles include: an index that lists AZT and zidovudine separately, some unnecessary repetition between chapters and an obviously US approach which therefore says little about primary health care. The editors wish this book to be found "dog-eared in clinics"—I would strongly recommend its perusal before reaching the clinic.

D MERCEY

Sexual Health Promotion in Genito-urinary Medicine Clinics. Contributions to a Conference. Edited by J PILLAYE. London Health Education Authority. (Pp. 77; £17.50.) ISBN 1-7521-0285-0

This book is a compilation of the presentations given to a conference held in March 1994 organised by the Health Education Authority. It is a well set out book, easy to read, and with an introduction by Dr Jayshree Pillaye offers 12 chapters of health promotion in genitourinary medicine from personal multidisciplinary perspectives.

The aim of the conference was to explore the opportunities and challenges for wider sexual health promotion in a GUM setting. The introduction offers a definition of sexual health and goes on to look at the pre-requisites for the promotion of sexual health, including the importance of a fully integrated service for the users including both GUM and Family Planning services.

Chapter one looks at the similarities and differences of the two services; consultants in gynaecology and family planning show how the "same women" use both. The authors suggest that the consequences of not meeting these needs are pregnancy and infection, and recommend cross staffing of both specialities. In chapter three a genitourinary medicine consultant looks at the provision of such a service, the author introducing a comparison of GUM and conventional gynaecology, one spending much time with sex and recreation, the other with sex and procreation! He offers a potted history of sexuality issues, and highlights the particular needs of women. Chapter four then

goes on to describe a Women Only clinic, which on evaluation, demonstrates the benefits of offering this specific service.

The results of a short patient survey of sexual health promotion in four clinics is offered in chapter two, and confirms certain of the findings of chapter one. Following evaluation this survey identified the lack of sexual health information available to clients in some areas of genitourinary medicine.

In chapter six the author looks at the impact of ethnicity, stating that there is no such thing as a multicultural approach in the singular, but that there are many cultures. Language is a barrier often encountered by non English speakers, particularly in the written translation of health education information, and she asks all workers in this area to be aware of this and other issues. The author of chapter seven describes the importance of sexuality, and related issues such as ethnicity, religion, and culture. He describes how workers in the field should be able to offer an approach to clients based on objectivity and compassion. In chapter five the author offers a drug workers perspective, identifying the shortfalls in his own area, and the time being expended on drug abuse, and not sexual, links with HIV infection.

The author of chapter 8, a senior health advisor, presents information on contact tracing and partner notification, and its impact on health promotion in one clinic. Chapter 9 offers a service users perspective, emphasising the importance of continuity of care particularly for the HIV positive patient, the importance of a multidisciplinary approach, the inclusion of alternative therapies, and the availability of a good listener

The author of chapter 10 shows how she incorporates health promotion into her clinical work as a nurse in a GUM clinic, working with clients, practice nurses, school nurses and the general public, often using a multidisciplinary approach.

The authors of the final two chapters are a purchaser and a clinical director. Both illustrate the benefits of sexual health promotion within the genitourinary medical services, but introduce the issue of funding. The need for research and evaluation is emphasised prior to requesting such funding. The clinical director poses the final question on sexual health promotion, asking, "Can we afford it?" His immediate response being, "Can we afford not to?"

ANGIE CARPENTER